

**PROVOST**

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April. Roper, Spear and Shelton all boast strong scientific experience. Spear is a former psychology professor and the editor of the journal Visual Neuroscience. Roper has experience in the School of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Shelton is a physics professor. Philip DiStefano, vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Colorado, said he had observed Spear's talent for balancing the concerns of arts and sciences. "Peter has about 40 chairs and directors reporting to him, and he gets along very well with everyone, even the humanists and social scientists," he said. Lawrence and Courant's résumés lack significant scientific background, but Courant said he feels a natural scientist is not necessarily the best choice. "It's useful in university leadership to

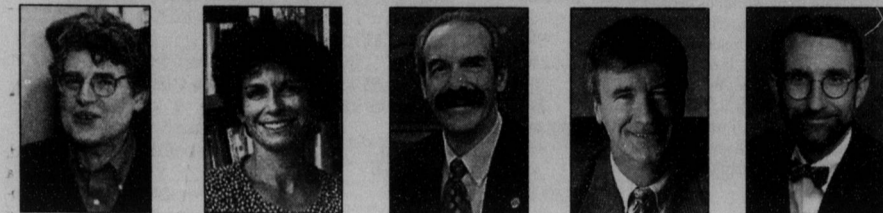
cover as much as possible of different areas of study, but I would argue social sciences are important as well as natural sciences and the humanities," he said. Candice Garretson, assistant dean of the School of Humanities at University of California-Irvine, said her colleague Lawrence was well-rounded in administrative matters despite her liberal arts focus. "She has a very strong, clear vision for everything, and she works very well with all the faculty in terms of developing initiatives," Garretson said. Above all else, candidates and search committee members alike stressed a desire to match the personality of the University to its next administrator. Each candidate will visit UNC in the coming weeks to participate in a series of meetings and tours, which Matthews said will allow the committee to get to know them before making a final recommendation. The candidates welcomed the chance to get to know the UNC community. "As an experimental scientist, I do better if I interact with people, walk

around and try to understand what's going on firsthand," Shelton said. The prospective provosts will also individually participate in a public forum that all students, faculty and staff can attend. All the candidates expressed excitement about this stage in the search, especially those who said they are not familiar with the campus. But even Roper, the only candidate with Tar Heel ties, said he was eager to begin this in-depth procedure. "I am honored to be considered for the position and look forward to the rest of the process," Roper said. Matthews said that whatever the result of these meetings, he is excited to make his final recommendation to the chancellor and see the outcome of the search. He said, "I've been very impressed - I think, regardless of the final decision, you can't go wrong with any of the five we have left."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

**And Then There Were 5 ...**

A University search committee has narrowed down its provost selection to five candidates. The provost, who will also serve as the executive vice chancellor, is the chief academic officer and oversees all 13 colleges and schools.



**Dr. Paul N. Courant**, associate provost for academic and budgetary affairs at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

**Dr. Karen R. Lawrence**, dean of the School of Humanities at the University of California-Irvine

**Dr. Peter D. Spear**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado-Boulder

**Dr. Robert N. Shelton**, vice provost for research in the office of the president at the University of California

**Dr. William L. Roper**, dean of the School of Public Health at UNC and former White House aide

SOURCE: NEWS SERVICES

**BRENT ROAD**

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it's going to be a huge riot." In addition to the police crackdown, the N.C. State Student Union Activities Board is sponsoring Crossroads, an alcohol-free party for students seeking an alternative to the Brent Road bash. Activities board Vice President Larissa Rodriguez, who is an N.C. State junior, said the idea for Crossroads started as a way to welcome students back to school. "We originally wanted to hold

the party the first weekend back," Rodriguez said. "But we thought we could probably get more financial support if we held it on the same weekend as (the Brent Road party)." The party will start at 5 p.m. on Saturday at the intersection of Dan Allen and Cates avenues, near the center of campus. Rodriguez said Crossroads will feature a Ferris wheel, free food and a screening of the movie "The Matrix." N.C. State Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Tom Stafford said university administrators fully support the

alternative party plan. Stafford said he even asked some of his staff to help organize the party. Rodriguez said most N.C. State students are excited about having an alternative to the Brent Road bash. She said she attended the Brent Road party once and did not enjoy it. "I wasn't drunk, so I couldn't really participate," Rodriguez said. "There was broken glass all over the place and a lot of (groping and) abuse." The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

**WEBSTER**

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for a Peace, War, and Technology class at UNC-Charlotte. Webster, who declined to comment on the case while it is still pending, is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 3. If convicted, Webster could face jail time. Because the crime occurred on campus, Webster will also have to appear before ECU's dean of students. It is unclear what, if any, disciplinary

action ECU will take against Webster. But the ASG Constitution mandates that the association's president is a student in good standing at a UNC institution. Still, Webster said that he has no plans to resign his post as of now. "I am still the University of North Carolina ASG president, and I am still a member of the Board of Governors," he said Thursday. ASG Vice President Liz Gardner, a UNC-Chapel Hill junior, said Webster could choose to step down, or he could be removed from office if articles of impeachment were brought against him.

**N.C. Towns Consider Restricting Video Poker**

SHALLOTTE - Responding to South Carolina's ban on video poker machines, some North Carolina border towns plan to restrict use of the machines. After South Carolina's ban took effect July 1, the General Assembly approved a law prohibiting new video poker machines in North Carolina and placing a three-machine limit on businesses effective Oct. 1. Some communities want even tougher measures. "South Carolina quit it and these people had to get rid of their machines," said Sunset Beach Town Administrator Linda Fluegel. "We found out they're being stored in Brunswick County. The next step would be to open them." Calabash has passed a 90-day moratorium on video gambling establishments, buying time to enact ordinances that are stricter than the state laws but that would not ban video gambling outright.

**Nigeria Officials Search For Bodies After Fire**

ABUJA, Nigeria - Firefighters and stunned villagers searched for more bodies Wednesday after a gasoline pipeline explosion in southern Nigeria that killed more than 100 villagers who were scavenging for fuel and left 100 others seriously injured. Isolated fires still burned Wednesday morning, two days after the blast near the villages of Adeje and Oviru-Court in southern Nigeria, in the oil-rich Niger Delta. Clouds of black smoke hung over the area, and state petroleum company workers and firefighters continued efforts to extinguish the blaze, local

newspaper reporters said. Charred bodies, many of them children in school uniforms, lay scattered near the site of the explosion on Tuesday. Some corpses were burned beyond recognition, while others still clutched containers used to collect fuel. Villagers were hastily burying bodies in shallow graves. One reporter counted 100 bodies, while others who visited the scene estimated that between 150 and 250 people were killed. The death toll was expected to climb, with 100 villagers seriously wounded and another 100 reported missing, witnesses and state television said.

**Wind, Lightning Make Western Fires Flare Up**

HELENA, Mont. - High wind fanned wildfires in the Bitterroot Valley on Thursday as crews braced for a weekend of gusty wind and dry lightning. Driven by 30- to 50-mph wind, a fire in Montana's Bitterroot Valley jumped a road Thursday, and crews were trying to locate the fire's leading edge. A day earlier, wind swept the blaze into new territory and authorities issued a mandatory evacuation order for about 20 homes. The fire ignited baled hay, but there was no confirmed loss of homes. The blaze was part of the 54,700-acre Skalkaho Complex, which is among 25 major fires burning 591,851 acres in Montana. Fires this year have burned 5.7 million acres across the country, and the National Interagency Fire Center said 78 major fires were burning on 1.4 million acres. The fire season already is the worst in at least a half-century, and the outlook remained bleak. The center said dry lightning storms were expected throughout Idaho, Montana and eastern Washington, increasing the chances of new fires. Associated Press

**EASTGATE**

From Page 1

"We're actually 4 feet higher than the other stores," Miller said, explaining how her store avoided the damage other stores received. Talbot's, a women's clothing store, has to be rebuilt all the way from its floor tiling. Not a shred of clothing remains in the space. Depending on the damage, the

Eastgate stores are rebuilding in a variety of ways. "Some businesses have hired firms to do the cleanup. Some did the cleanup themselves," said Joel Harper, president of the Chapel Hill Chamber of Commerce. Hold Your Own, which endured \$15,000 of damage after accumulating 8 inches of rain, had its carpets professionally cleaned and its walls checked for mildew. "We did the rest ourselves and were closed for two-and-a-half days," said

Marty Cassidy, the store manager. "Basically, all we lost was on the floor and on the first shelf." But other shops had more extensive damage, such as Storehouse, a furniture dealer that opened only a month before the rain. "We had 3 1/2 feet of water, and all of (the furniture) is European," said Nidya Melona, co-owner of Storehouse. Melona, whose store had \$300,000 in damage, said it will take 12 to 16 weeks to reorder its custom-made inventory. To cover these costs, the Chamber of

Commerce gave office space to the Federal Emergency Management Administration so its agents could work closely with merchants. FEMA officials are providing loans at a 4 percent interest rate. The chamber also circulated a supply list to the Eastgate store owners and coordinated a meeting between the stores, the town and FEMA. "The mayor's office was just excellent in getting people together," Harper said. Emotional support from the town also helped keep the merchants' confi-

dence high, they said. "We got a lot of cards and flowers from customers," said Sylvia Tornetta, manager of Sal's Pizza. Despite the poor condition of some stores, all have tentative plans to reopen this year. "Every business has told us that they

will open sometime this fall," Harper said. "Some sooner than others." The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

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